THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Survey for Rajpura-Chandigarh railway line is in progress and the report is expected shortly.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of new railway lines in Punjab

2499. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no new railway line has been constructed in Punjab since 1947;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have conducted any survey for Constitution of new rail way lines in Punjab in the near future; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Survey for Rajpura-Chandigarh railway line is in progress.

Direct link between Amrttsar and Simla

2500. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no direct railway link between Amritsar and Simla;

(b) whether Government are aware that in the absence of such a link, vegetables and fruit growers of Himachal Pradesh arc facing difficulty in sending their produce to Punjab and milkmen of Punjab facing difficulty in sending milk to Himachal Pradesh-

(c) if so, whether Government propose to start a rail, link direct from Punjab to Simla; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Rail link is avaiable via Ambala.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Simla-Kalka is a NG line. Kalka-Amritsar via Ambala is a BG line. Direct trains cannot be run due to different gauges.

Crossing between Ti-nali and Repalle in S.C. Railway

2501. DR. YELAMANCHELl SIVATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it *is* a fact that there is no crossing between Tenali and Repalle stations on the S. C. Rly;

(b) how many trains are running between the above two-stations; and

(c) what are the reasons to demolish the crossing at Vemur station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 6 pairs of passenger trains.

(c) Due to less traffic density.

अवध एक्सप्रेस का दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होना

2502. श्री रामनरेश यादव : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 16 फरवरी, 1994 को रतलाम के समीप अवध एक्सप्रेस की हुई दुर्घटना का ब्यौरा क्या है और उनमें कितने व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हुई, उनमें पुरुषों और महिलाओं की अलग-अलग संख्या कितनी थी तथा दुर्घटना के कारण क्या थे ;